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MORTON ARBORETUM

JOY MORTON · FOUNDER

BULLETIN OF POPULAR INFORMATION

LISLE, ILLINOIS

"REVIEWING THE 1953 HORTICULTURAL PUBLICATIONS"*

"Flowers of the Nations." In the May, 1953 issue of **Flower Grower,** (p. 54) in which John Asch tabulates the **National Flowers of the World,** it is surprising and disappointing to learn that only one country, the United States, has no official national flower. Although the Wild Rose, Columbine, Violet and Goldenrod have all been proposed for the honor, no official designation has yet been made. And this in a nation of gardeners!

Horticulturally minded travellers should benefit from the map and accompanying list enumerating the **Nation's Major Horticultural Displays** in the January, 1953 **Flower Grower,** (p. 52). Arranged by states, and listing the time and place of the outstanding displays, it provides a ready reference.

Another noteworthy map and article titled, "They also Bring 'Em Back Alive", **shows the world contributions to the agriculture of the United States** and the approximate centers of origin of some of the more familiar crops. Ref. **Nature Magazine** Jan. 1953 (p. 37).

Maintenance

Looking for **a reliable tree wound paint with fungicidal properties? The Horticultural Newsletter** of June 22, 1953 (p. 11) mentions one recently developed on the West Coast, a formula consisting of 1# of powdered Bordeaux Mixture, 1# Raw Linseed Oil and 4 oz. Scotch Soot or powdered lamp black. The mixture is stirred until it becomes an even black, then applied with a short bristled brush. It may be stored in a closed container for use as needed.

Fireblight, that fungus so injurious to Pears, Crabapples and other members of the Rosaceae family **may now be controlled by the use of antibiotics.** Ref. **Trees Magazine** Sept.-Oct. 1953 (p. 14); **Country**

*The publications referred to are all available for reference use in the Morton Arboretum Library. Library hours: Daily 9-12; 1-5; Saturdays 9-12.

Gentleman Nov. 1953 (p. 98). **Control by means of a Streptomycin Spray** is described in the **American Nurseryman,** Aug. 15, 1953 (p. 32).

Flies, Bark Beetles and Birds have been found to be vectors of Oak Wilt, the disease currently taking such a toll among our native oaks. Ref. **American Nurseryman** Sept. 1, 1953 (p. 68); **Science News Letter,** Aug. 29, 1953 (p. 131). **How the Killing by Wilt is being stopped by Chemical Treatment** is described in the Sept. 18, 1953 issue (p. 181) of the same periodical.

In a comprehensive article entitled, **"Better Gardens with Chemicals", Flower Grower** May 1953, (p. 56), Dr. P. P. Pirone of the New York Botanical Garden reviews both new and old insecticides, fungicides, plant growth regulators and soil conditioners, and explains how chemicals save the gardener time, money and effort in combatting insects, diseases and weeds.

The alarming spread of Dutch Elm Disease in Illinois is reported in the **American Nurseryman,** Nov. 1, 1953, (p. 81). Since the first two cases were discovered in 1950, 400 infected trees were found up until the middle of September, 1953. There were 173 cases in the Champaign-Urbana area alone.

Practical suggestions for Rose Pest Control are contained in Leaflet #1 of **The Botanical Gardens, Whitnall Park,** Hales Corners, Wisconsin, March, 1953.

The troublesome **Pine Shoot Moth** so prevalent on Austrian and Scotch Pines and now reported on Red Pine **may be controlled by a DDT Spray.** Ref. **American Nurseryman** April 1, 1953 (p. 45); **Flower Grower** July, 1953 (p. 25).

Seventeen Year Locusts (Cicadas), already present in some parts of the country, and scheduled to reappear in this area in 1956, **may be controlled by TEPP Sprays.** Ref. **American Nurseryman** April 1, 1953 (p. 32).

Taxus Scale, now prevalent in some areas on the supposedly pest free Yew, **may be checked by Parathion or Miscible Oil Sprays.** Ref. **Florists Exchange** March 7, 1953 (p. 11).

For a ready **reference guide to Weed Control** consult the chart in **Country Gentleman,** March 1953 (p. 44).

Trace Elements, minerals found to be so very essential to plant growth, **are now offered in a new product known at FTE,** (fritted trace elements). This material provides a slowly soluble source of minerals which will remain in the soil for a full growing season. Ref. **Horticulture** March, 1953 (p. 105).

Horticulture, Sept. 1953 (p. 372) **recommends using Chloro IPC** to combat that difficult to eradicate pest, **Chickweed.**

Better Homes and Gardens, Feb. 1953 (p. 25) **offers a suggestion for destroying** another aggressive pest, *Nepeta hederacea,* a creeping member of the Mint Family known variously as Ground Ivy, Gill-over-the-

ground, Creeping Jenny, Creeping Charlie, etc. A commercial mixture of 2,4-D and Potassium cyanate is said to effect a control.

Quackgrass, one of the most troublesome and difficult to control weeds, **can be eradicated** in an uncropped area where the sod is thick by using Sodium T.C.A. at the rate of 2# in 50 gallons of water per 1000 sq. feet. If the sod is turned under more complete control can be had with 1# in 5 gallons if applied when the quackgrass shoots begin to appear. Sodium TCA should not be used near trees, shrubs and other plants you wish to preserve. Ref. **The Horticultural Newsletter,** Aug. 17, 1953 (p. 27).

Anyone who has wondered **what to do with an overgrown lilac bush** will benefit from the suggestions for pruning and rehabilitating appearing in **Popular Gardening,** March 1953 (p. 59). The Rochester Park System, famous for its outstanding lilacs, furnished the information. Also significant from the maintenance standpoint is the suggestion in **Flower Grower,** May, 1953 (p. 89), for **controlling lilac borers by a "Chlordane Spray"** applied in May.

If necessary to acidify soil preparatory to planting *Ericaceae* and other plants of acid preference **it would be well to heed the advice in The Horticultural Newsletter** of May 25, 1953 (p. 32). Peat moss, oak leaf mold, wood's soil, Holly-Tone or similar materials are recommended. Aluminum sulfate **is not advised.**

There is much to be learned as to **the amount of fill various tree species will tolerate over their roots.** Oaks and Chestnuts are known to be very susceptible to grade changes, while lindens and cottonwoods seem able to survive heavy filling. Ref. **Better Homes and Gardens,** Oct. 1953 (p. 25).

Trees and Shrubs

Among the references to **unusual or out of range woody plants** may be cited those pertaining to the established 15 ft. Dove Tree, *Davidia involucrata* in Toledo. Ref. **Trees Magazine,** Nov.-Dec. 1953 (p. 3); The Big Tree, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* in Denver, Ref. **The Green Thumb,** April 1953 (p. 26); **the pink flowered** *Cladrastis lutea* in Massachusetts. Ref. *Florists Exchange,* July 25, 1953 (p. 20); the **Bamboo species hardy in New Jersey.** Ref. **Flower Grower,** May 1953 (p. 52), and the **fruiting** *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* **in Oregon.** Ref. **Shade Tree Digest,** May 1953 (p. 3).

Rose enthusiasts will find these references interesting and informative: The Twenty best Single and Semi-double Roses at Reef Point Gardens, Bar Harbor, Maine (chart). Ref. **Reef Point Gardens Bulletin,** June, 1953 (p. 4); **Roses, Century Old, in Commerce today.** Ref. **American Rose Magazine,** Aug. 1953 (p. 13); **Roses, Hunting Old.** Ref. **Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin,** April 1953 (p. 65); **Roses—the Best of the Best**—David P. Watson. Ref. **Plants and Gardens,** Spring, 1953 (p. 40); **Rose fragrance, is it necessary?** Ref. **American Rose Magazine,** June, 1953 (p. 32); and **Rosa floribunda "Glacier",** a drouth resistant variety. Ref. **Popular Gardening,** Jan. 1953 (p. 22).

Other plant groups received comprehensive coverage in the following articles: **The trend toward Hardiness in Azaleas**—Dr. Henry Skinner. Ref. **The Garden Journal,** March-Apr. 1953 (p. 33); **Clematis Variety and Color to suit any purpose.** Ref. **The Minnesota Horticulturist,** March, 1953 (p. 36); **Clematis for the Garden,** Dr. E. J. Kraus. Ref. **The Garden Journal,** Nov.-Dec. 1953 (p. 181); **Chestnuts stage a comeback.** Ref. **Flower Grower,** Jan. (1953 (p. 51); **Cottonwood, the tree of romance .** Ref. **Frontiers,** Feb. 1953 (p. 76); **Daphnes,** a review of the genus (very comprehensive.) Ref. **Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society,** Jan. 1953 (p. 5); Heaths—**"The Heather Garden never sleeps"** (varietal tabulation). Ref. **Pacific Gardens and Homes,** Dec. 1953 (p. 4); **Hollies for the Garden**—from ground covers to trees (very comprehensive). Ref. **Popular Gardening,** Feb. 1953 (p. 30); **Holly in Variety** (illustrated). Ref. **Flower Grower,** Dec. 1953 (p. 24); and **Lilacs, worthy plants meriting more attention from nurserymen**—John C. Wister. Ref. **American Nurseryman,** June 1, 1953 (p. 12).

The Spring, 1953 issue of **Plants and Gardens,** titled, **"The Gardeners Handbook"**, contains among other worthwhile information a selected list of **Trees and Shrubs for Special Uses** compiled by Dr. L. C. Chadwick (p. 44). The plants comprising it are conveniently classified according to the conditions under which they are most useful and the places in which they are most suitable.

The Autumn, 1953 edition of the same publication was devoted entirely to **Dwarf Potted Trees** (Bonsai), **their kinds, training and care.** By far the most complete compilation of information on this ancient art yet published in the U.S., this reference is highly recommended to anyone interested in this fascinating subject.

"Topiary", another entirely different method of training trees still practiced in the British Isles and in parts of the Continent is discussed at length in the **Flower Grower,** June 1953 (p. 70) by Dr. Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum. Topiary examples are seldom seen in the United States, one of the oldest collections being at the Hunnewell Estate in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Although geometrical designs are most common, intricate and often grotesque figures are frequently encountered.

Big Trees of the Midwest, a floristic study by Kendall Laughlin lists by location and describes the largest individual of each species of forest tree found in an area of the Midwest equivalent to about five states. Ref. **Phytologia,** March 1953 (p. 153).

Natural History, Dec. 1953 (p. 466) reports what is considered to be **our largest Petrified Tree,** "The Monarch of the Black Rock", in the Black Rock Desert of Northwestern Nevada. It is thought that this 46 ft. (circumference) specimen may be a Metasequoia.

Water for a Dying Giant. A modern irrigation system capable of furnishing its daily 10,000 gallon requirement has come to the aid of the famous Tule Tree (Montezuma Cypress) of Mexico, ailing for several